THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (e) To resolve the environmental problems of the Konkan Railway Line, Ministry has constituted an Expert Committee. The Committee having examined various environmental, architectural, cultural and heritage aspects of the Konkan Railway alignment has submitted its report. The report is under examination by the Ministry.

(f) Does not arise.

**Social Forestry Programme in Andhra Pradesh**

2392. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the total area brought under the Social Forestry Programme during the last three years, year-wise in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the number of trees planted during that period and how many have survived; and

(c) what is the total amount spent on this programme during that period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (c) The physical and financial achievements of afforestation/tree planting activities including Social Forestry, under the Twenty Point Programme, during the last three years in Andhra Pradesh is as given below :—

| | Physical (Seedlings in lakhs) | (Area in ha.) | Financial (Rs. in lakhs) |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Seedlings Distribution (for planting on private lands, etc,) | Area Coverage (public lands, including forest lands) | |
| 1989-90 . . . | — | 131757.50 | 2174.00 |
| 1990-91 . . . | 1612.00 | 21600.00 | 2195.92 |
| 1991-92 . . . | 1775.91 | 56590.00 | 2376.92 |

It may be mentioned that from the year 1990-91, targets are being set (and consequently achievements being reported) in terms of two mutually exclusive items, i.e. "seedlings distribution" for planting on private lands and "area coverage" for public lands, including forest lands. For the year 1989-90, the achievement was assessed in terms of area coverage only.

State-wise position of survival of saplings for the last three years is not readily available. Studies and assessments of the afforestation and tree planting activities carried out in certain States have revealed that, while there are location-wise and species-wise variations, the overall survival rate varies from 55% to 80%.

**National Parks New Haven for Terrorists**

2393. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in Indian Express dated 13th November, 1992 stating that National Park have become New haven for terrorists and naxalites;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to the observations made therein; and

(c) the details of action initiated taken in the matter and with what results ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In some protected areas this problem is being experienced. The State Governments within whose jurisdiction the management of National Parks and Sanctuaries and maintenance of the law and order falls, are taking measures to tackle the situation. Assistance is being extended to them whenever asked for. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Ecodevelopment in and around National Parks and Sanctuaries including Tiger Reserves is also being implemented to reduce the dependence of the local people on the forests and improve their quality of living.

**Setting up of Eco-Tribunal**

2394. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up Eco-Tribunal as an effective measure to deal with pollution and related cases in the field of ecology;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal finalised and its present status;

(c) whether Government are aware of the reported criticism that the proposal Tribunal leaves out pollution causing Government units as per the assigned scope of authority; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereon and how the such units would be dealt with ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) to (d) A Bill to provide for strict liability for damages arising out of any accident occurring while handling hazardous substance and for the establishment of a National Environment Tribunal for effective and expeditious disposal of cases arising from such accident, with a view to giving relief and compensation for damages to persons, property and the environment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, has been introduced in Lok Sabha on 18th August, 1992. The power of exemption provided in the Bill in respect of certain categories, including government bodies/public sectors, is permissive and not automatic.

**Demand for Ayurvedic Unani and Homoeopathic Doctors**

2395. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Medical Council of India is of the opinion that the country has more than enough doctors and medical colleges;

(b) whether Government are aware that the country produces 18000 doctors a year while there is need for 40,000 doctors per year;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to increase the number of doctors in Ayurvedic, Unani and Homoeopathic systems of medicines; and

(d) when this is likely to be implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) The President of the Medical Council of India is reported to have voiced this opinion in his personal capacity. This does not reflect the views of the Government.

(b) As per imformation available with the Government, the number of Allopathic medical graduates produced every year is between 11,000 and 13,000. The annual requirement of doctors has not been computed.

(c) and (d) There is no specific Central Scheme for increasing the number of seats in Indian System of Medicine & Homoeopathy Colleges.